

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

ISO-00 OIC-02 /043 W

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R 021810Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2628

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 19525

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: FINNISH-HOSTED SYMPOSIUM OF UNESCO NATIONAL
COMMISSIONS OF CSCE FINAL ACT SIGNATORIES ON CULTURAL
COOPERATION

REF: (A) PARIS 16975; (B) STATE 150422

1. SUBJECT SYMPOSIUM, TO BE HELD AUGUST 26-28 IN HEL-
SINKI, IS NOT REPEAT NOT A UNESCO ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH A
SMALL PARTICIPATION PROGRAM GRANT FROM UNESCO WILL MEET
SOME OF THE COSTS. THE MEETING IS A FINNISH GOVERNMENT
INITIATIVE. ATTENDANCE OF WESTERN SIGNATORIES TO THE
HELSINKI FINAL ACT WILL BE MINIMAL, IN VIEW OF DECISION
TAKEN AT RECENT MEETING OF THE EEC "NINE" NOT TO ATTEND
ACCORDING TO UK PERMREP. WHILE UK PARTICIPATION - IN
THE PERSON OF THE MEMBER OF THE BRITISH NATCOM FOR UNES-
CO - HAD AT FIRST BEEN COMMUNICATED TO GOF, UK PERM-
REP BELIEVES BRITISH INVITEE WILL PROBABLY WITHDRAW.
NEGATIVE DECISION OF NINE REFLECTS: (A) COMMON RELUC-
TANCE TO HAVE BROAD UNESCO INVOLVEMENT IN FOLLOW-UP
ACTIVITIES UNDER FINAL ACT; AND (B) WISH TO CONFINE SUCH
INVOLVEMENT TO CAREFULLY AND PRECISELY NEGOTIATED
ACTIVITIES REACHED ON BASIS OF TRUE CONSENSUS OF ALL
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SIGNATORIES TO THE ACT. RE THIS PARTICULAR SYMPOSIUM,

"NINE" REPORTEDLY FELT IT WAS KIND OF MEETING THAT SOVIET
-EE PARTICIPANTS COULD EXPLOIT TO FURTHER BLOC INTERPRE-
TATIONS OF HELSINKI ACT.

2. AS GOF IS NEGOTIATOR AND HOST OF SYMPOSIUM, DEPART-
MENT MIGHT WISH TO ADDRESS REQUEST FOR DETAILED INFORMA-
TION DIRECTLY TO GOF. PERMDEL RECOMMENDATION, HOWEVER,
IS THAT U.S. TAKE A COMMON POSITION WITH THE NINE AND
NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEND THE SYMPOSIUM. PERMDEL BELIEVES
IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN A CLOSELY COORDINATED POSITION
IN COMMON WITH THE MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN SIGNA-
TORIES TO ACT AS FAR AS UNESCO INVOLVEMENT IS CONCERNED
AND CAN SEE NO GOOD REASON FOR ACCEPTING GOF INVITA-
TION IN THE FACE OF THE EEC NINE REJECTION.

3. ACCORDING TO CIRCULAR LETTER FROM FINNISH PERMDEL AT
UNESCO, SUBJECT SYMPOSIUM IS TRACED BACK TO A SERIES OF
SYMPOSIA ON PROBLEMS OF CULTURAL COOPERATION BEGUN BY
THE FINNISH NATCOM FOR UNESCO IN 1973. FINNISH SYMPOSIUM
IN JUNE 1973 DEALT WITH "THE CULTURAL POLICY OF SMALL
NATIONS AND THE ORIGINALITY OF NATIONAL CULTURE IN A
RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD", THE SECOND IN JUNE 1973 CON-
CERNED "BIG AND SMALL NATIONS IN CULTURAL COOPERATION".
CIRCULAR LETTER STATES THAT ON MARCH 1, 1976 THE FIN-
NISH NATCOM SENT AN INVITATION TO ALL "EUROPEAN REGION"
NATIONS TO SEND EXPERTS TO THE MEETING (INVITATION IN-
CLUDED PAYMENT OF FULL BOARD AND LODGING BUT NOT RE-
PEAT NOT TRAVEL EXPENSES). CIRCULAR LETTER CONCLUDES BY
STRESSING THAT THE SYMPOSIUM "IS A PROJECT OF THE FIN-
NISH NATIONAL COMMISSION AND NOT A FORMAL MEETING OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS" AND
THEREFORE HAS "NO FORMAL STATUS."

4. PERMDEL AIRPOUCHING COPY OF FINNISH PERMDEL CIRCULAR
LETTER AND ENCLOSURE OF SUGGESTED AGENDA.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS19525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760258-0133
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760795/aaaadfli.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 16975, 76 STATE 150422
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINNISH-HOSTED SYMPOSIUM OF UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSIONS OF CSCE FINAL ACT SIGNATORIES ON CULTURAL
TAGS: PORG, OCON, SCUL, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006